

December 3, 1965

Mr. R. Sargent Shriver
The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation
1411 K Street, N.W. Suite 402

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Shriver:

You probably recall that after some of Professor Shockley's noises some while ago you wondered about the advisability of making some reply. At that time I thought it would be better to minimize the irritation by ignoring it. However, since he has come out again with a major blast in U. S. News and World Report for November 22, I felt that some reply had to be made, if only to make it clear that the geneticists at Stanford were completely disassociated from his distortions. I see no hope whatsoever of budging him from his position, nor even of tempering it with a requisite amount of scientific caution; nor is it likely that his sympathetic adherence can be dissuaded either. But it is obvious that any pseudoscientific reputability that he is affording these anti-social ideas should be deflated. At any rate, I have gone so far as to send in the letter to the editors of U. S. News and World Report for, I hope, publication. It really would be quite impossible to accommodate Shockley for what he wants, namely, a drag-out debate, but at the very least I did feel that we should make some disconnecting statements, and I thought you might like to see this.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Received / Shriver